Pollution Level on Indian Coasts

†4019. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution level at Indian Coasts is increasing and whether Government have conducted any survey to check it;

(b) if so, the details and results thereof;

(c) whether industrial waste from foreign countries is being poured into the sea near Indian Coasts; and

(d) if so, the names of the countries which have been doing so during the last three years and the preventive steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Under a long term Pollution Monitoring Programme of Department of Ocean Development (DOD), data on pollution parameters collected at several locations along the coastline in the last ten years indicate that the coastal waters beyond 2 km is clean, except off Mumbai where the coastal water is clean beyond 5 km. Further in this 2Km area, very few locations have indicated localised pollution and these include the coastal waters off Mumbai and small sectors in the cost of Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai. The data collected have indicated that there are no significant changes in the pollution levels over the years at many locations except in the case of creeks of Mumbai and Puri where there are improvements in water quality.

(c) and (d) No reports of dumping of hazardous industrial wastes along the Indian Coasts have been brought to the notice of the Government.

Expeditions by Ministry of Ocean Development

4020. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has undertaken any expedition during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has achieved any major breakthroughs in its expeditions during that period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.